

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/542,716

Applicant(s)

HAUPT, JOSEF

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 27 September 2007 interview, 17 July 2007 amendment.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14, 18-23, 25 and 26.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20070927.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070927.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael J. Bujold on September 27, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 14, in line 1, after "An arrangement" deleted "for axial support of" and replaced with --axially supporting--.

In claim 14, after line 5, inserted --a supporting component,
a supported component concentrically
mounted within a cavity defined by a peripheral wall of the supporting
component, --.

In claim 14, in line 8, after "wherein the snap ring (6) is" deleted "movable in an
area of" and replaced with --resiliently twistable within--.

In claim 14, in line 9, after "in an annular groove (11)" inserted --within the
cavity--.

In claim 14, in line 9, after "the supporting component (2)" inserted --for axially
retaining the supported component within the supporting component--.

In claim 14, in line 12, after "two ramps (8,9) being" deleted "integral" and
replaced with --integrally formed--.

Art Unit: 3679

In claim 14, in line 16, after "the snap ring (6)" deleted " , the ramps (8,9) being" and replaced with --such that the ramps (8,9) are--.

In claim 14, in line 17, after "a diameter that is" deleted "one of".

In claim 14, in line 18, after "the impacting ends (6a,6b)" deleted "and a diameter that is greater than the diameter of the impacting ends (6a,6b)" and replaced with --for retaining the snap ring within the annular groove--.

In claim 14, in line 20, after "a stop (10) being" deleted "integral" and replaced with --integrally formed--.

In claim 14, in line 21, after "the impacting ends (6a,6b)" deleted "in an area of the peripheral gap (7)" and replaced with --within the peripheral gap (7) for preventing twisting of and removal of the snap ring from the annular groove--.

Canceled claims 15-17.

In claim 18, in line 1, after "to claim" deleted "17" and replaced with --14--.

In claim 18, in line 2, after "upon the" deleted "component (3) to be supported" and replaced with --supported component (3)--.

In claim 19, in line 2, before "is a sheet" deleted "component to be supported" and replaced with --supported component--.

In claim 21, in line 2, after "sheet metal" deleted "component (3) to be supported" and replaced with --supported component (3)--.

In claim 22, in line 2, after "sheet metal" deleted "component (3) to be supported" and replaced with --supported component (3)--.

Art Unit: 3679

In claim 23, in line 5, after "a reduced" deleted "a".

In claim 23, in line 7, before "adjacent the at least one" deleted "at least one peripheral area" and replaced with --peripheral gap--.

In claim 25, in line 2, after "disc carrier and the" deleted "component to be supported as" and replaced with --supported component is--.

In claim 26, in line 1, after "An arrangement" deleted "for axial support of" and replaced with --axially supporting--.

In claim 26, after line 2, inserted --a supporting component,
a supported component concentrically
mounted within a cavity defined by a peripheral wall of the supporting
component, --.

In claim 26, in line 5, after "wherein the snap ring (6) is" deleted "movable in an area of" and replaced with --resiliently twistable within--.

In claim 26, in line 6, after "in an annular groove (11)" deleted "of a supporting component (2)" and replaced with --within the cavity of the supporting component (2) for axially retaining the supported component within the supporting component--.

In claim 26, in line 14, after "the snap ring (6)" inserted --such that the ramps are arranged on a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the impacting ends for retaining the snap ring within the annular groove--.

In claim 26, in line 15, after "the front flange (3a)" deleted "so that the component (3) to be supported is supported in an axial direction" and replaced with

--within the annular groove so that the supported component (3) is retained in an axial direction within the supporting component--.

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

In Figure 1, elements **2,3,4,5,6,13**, shown in cross-sectional view, should have proper cross-hatching based on the material of such elements.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 14, Hallerberg (US 4,018,318) discloses the claimed arrangement with the exception of wherein the snap ring is inserted in an annular groove within the cavity of the supporting component for axially retaining the supported component within the supporting component; the supported component having two ramps, one ramp being radially coordinated with each of the impacting ends of the snap ring such that the ramps are arranged on a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the impacting ends for retaining the snap ring within the annular groove.

As to claim 26, Hallerberg discloses the claimed arrangement with the exception of wherein the snap ring is inserted in an annular groove within the cavity of the supporting component for axially retaining the supported component within the supporting component; the supporting component having crimpings which project radially to form the annular groove; the supported component having two ramps and a

Art Unit: 3679

front flange projecting radially therefrom and inclined axially toward the crimpings of the supporting component, one ramp being radially coordinated with each of the impacting ends of the snap ring such that the ramps are arranged on a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the impacting ends for retaining the snap ring within the annular groove, and the two impacting ends are placed of a front face of the front flange within the annular groove so that the supported component is retained in an axial direction within the supporting component.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the arrangement disclosed by Hallerberg to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30am-3:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



MPF

09/27/07



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